Ph.D. Program Structure

The Ph.D. program structure is designed to maximize the emphasis on research. This means that as students approach the end of their second year they will be focusing as much on conducting research and writing papers, as on studying for written prelims. It is important to note that this document presents the \textit{minimum} requirements. We encourage students to take additional methods courses to help them better prepare for doing research.

\textbf{MIS Major Courses (minimum 5+ required)}

\textbf{MIS 9700 Intro Research Course}
A survey of the MIS research literature. Students gain an understanding of the current frontiers of knowledge in a variety of MIS research topic areas. The course explores applicable research theories and frameworks, research concepts, and exemplary MIS research. Student develop the ability to critically evaluate MIS journal articles and are exposed to a diversity of topics, research methodologies, and journals.

\textbf{MIS 9710 Theories in MIS Research Seminar}
A continuation of the survey of MIS research literature started in previous courses with a particular focus on the role of theory in MIS research. A collection of diverse theoretical perspectives from several reference disciplines are studied, along with MIS research which has built upon each of those perspectives.

\textbf{MIS 8990 Seminar (1 hour) x 4}
Taken each semester for the first two years; attendance expected during entire program. A 1 hour pass/fail course designed to cover current topics in MIS practice and research. Seminars will be 1 hour each week. Faculty give one hour presentations on a rotating basis. These could include research in progress, completed research, current topics in industry, current statistical methods, visiting faculty presentations, teaching techniques, etc.

Two other MIS courses chosen based on student’s background and interest. It is expected that students will have an understanding of technology (e.g., programming, database), systems analysis and design, and managerial and organizational aspects of MIS, either from prior coursework, work experience, or by taking or teaching courses at UGA.

\textbf{Research Courses (minimum 4 required)}
It is expected that all students will have completed a business statistics course \textit{before} entering the Ph.D. program. The course should have covered introductory statistics topics such as means, standard deviations, t-tests, F-tests, etc. If students have not had this course, we will send out material for them to learn.

We recommend that students take the Marketing department statistics sequence and MGMT 9010, but would permit students to take other courses in their place. We encourage students to take additional methods courses beyond the four required.

\textbf{MARK 8240 Applied Models}
\textbf{ANOVA and Regression}

\textbf{MARK 9650 Multivariate}
\textbf{Multivariate techniques}

\textbf{MGMT 9010 Research Methodology}
Introduction to the scientific method, research methods, measurement, and proposal
development.

Methods course
A course from anywhere on campus that covers lab, survey, or qualitative/field research, or
an additional statistics course. We recommend the following courses:
ERSH 8410 Qualitative Data Collection
ERSH 8420 Qualitative Data Analysis
MARK 9750 Causal Modeling
Statistical course on structural equation modeling

Minor Courses (3 required)
Student’s choice (in consultation with advisor)

Research Apprenticeship (2 required)
Every student must have submitted a research paper approved by a professor to a journal or
conference (minimum 15 pages) before he or she can take oral exams. Written prelims may be
taken before the paper is submitted. The paper may not be co-authored with any other students
(faculty co-authorships are encouraged). Note that the Department cannot guarantee funding to
attend conferences, but will attempt to provide some support. Students will use the following
courses to work on the paper
MIS 8990 Directed Study (3 hours)
MIS 9000 Doctoral Research (3 hours)

Teaching Courses and Mentoring
GRSC 7777
A 2-hour course required by the grad school for students with no prior teaching experience

One-on-One Mentoring
Faculty will provide mentoring when students first start to teach. The “lead” professor for
a course will work together with the student to develop his or her teaching skills for the
course. Ideally, the student will have taken the graduate version of the course prior to
teaching the undergraduate version. Also ideally, the lead professor will also be teaching
an undergraduate version of the course so that the student can sit-in on the professor’s
course the day before the student is to teach the same material.

Prelim Exam (Taken in the beginning of the third year)

Written exam
The current form of the written exam is a 1 day (6 hour) written exam, followed by a take-
home article critique. The one day exam is composed of three questions on: 1) technology,
2) system development, and 3) organization and management, plus one question that asks
the student to write a research proposal for a specific research question.

Oral exam
The oral exam may follow up on issues contained in the written exam, it may focus on the
student's research to date, or any other topics the faculty feels are appropriate to judge the
student's readiness to embark on a dissertation. The paper submission and written exam
must be complete before the oral exam is taken but the paper does not need to precede the
written exam or vice versa.
Course Sequence

The recommended minimum course sequence is shown below. Course sequencing may not work perfectly, so some students may end up taking major courses, minor courses or methods courses at different times, including the summers. The "normal" course load for Ph.D. students is three 3-hour courses for a total of 9 hours per semester. A four course load is also permitted, but students may only take more than four courses (12 hours) with permission. The following sequence assumes a standard load of three courses, plus a 1-hour seminar. Since the assumed load is three courses (plus one hour), it will be possible for students to take one additional course in any semester (with permission) to aid in scheduling. Note that MGMT 9010 may not be offered every year, so that in some cases students may take it in the spring of their first year.

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<tr>
<th>Fall 1st Year</th>
<th>Spring 1st Year</th>
<th>Summer 1st Year</th>
<th>Fall 2nd Year</th>
<th>Spring 2nd Year</th>
<th>Summer 2nd Year</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>MIS 9700 Intro course</td>
<td>MIS 9710 Theory course</td>
<td>MIS 8990 Work on Research Paper(s)</td>
<td>Methods course (from outside dept)</td>
<td>MGMT 9010 Research Methods</td>
<td>MIS 9300 Complete Research Paper(s)</td>
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<td>MIS 8990 Seminar (1 hour)</td>
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<td>MARK 8240 ANOVA/Regression</td>
<td>MARK 9650 Multivariate</td>
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<td>MIS Major</td>
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<td>GRSC 7777 Teaching (2 hours)</td>
<td>MGMT 9010 Research Methods</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Written Prelims</td>
<td>Dissertation Proposal</td>
<td>Work on Dissertation</td>
<td>Work on Dissertation</td>
<td>Dissertation Defense</td>
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